MONTEREY NEWS

July 2014
VOLUME XLIV · Number 7

The Town

by Jacob Edelman

Director of Operations Retiring

On June 9th, Director of Operations Maynard Forbes came to the Select Board meeting to announce his retirement, effective this August. Besides being Director of Operations, Maynard is also Monterey's Fire Inspector, Dam Inspector, 911 Coordinator, Transfer Station Manager, and Deputy Emergency Management Director. He suggested that a committee should be formed to read résumés and conduct interviews with replacement candidates for the job of DoO, as was done when he was hired. Select Board member Scott Jenssen remarked that people will need to be appointed to the other positions as well.

At a June 12th meeting, the Select Board decided that they would handle interviewing, but that a review group would be formed for reading résumés. The advertised salary range was suggested to be $55,000–$68,000, and want ads were to be placed in the *Berkshire Eagle*, *Berkshire Record*, and *Shopper's Guide* for two weeks, with the deadline for application submission falling on June 27th.

By the June 23rd meeting, the Select Board had heard from a number of people interested in forming a part of the résumé review group and had so far received one application for Director of Operations. Some of the important applicant qualifications include knowledge of roads, purchasing, machinery operation, and computer use, and CDL class B and hydraulic licenses.

Select Board member Wayne Burkhart also pointed out that there used to be a Machinery and Highway Committee. A brief discussion took place about potentially resurrecting the group to serve as an advisory committee to the Select Board on highway issues. No plan exists to do so at this point.

The Roads

At the June 9th meeting Maynard requested that the Select Board approve a Chapter 90 project (reimbursable by the state) for the Highway Department to resurface Route 57 this summer, which will hold the road for fifteen to twenty years. The Board approved the project.

The Route 23 project went out to bid a month ago. Bids will be opened on September 3rd, with work possibly

Maureen Banner

Jazz evening with the Lucky Five Quintet on June 7, sponsored by the Monterey Cultural Council

starting this fall, finishing in the spring.

The state gave $30,000 through a pothole program which the Select Board approved to be used to resurface Beartown Mountain Road, some of which Maynard reported is "down to almost nothing."

The town portion of paving Sylvan Road will be done soon.

Two crossing signs were damaged, one by the school, one in the center of town. One is fixable; the other needs to be replaced.

The Select Board opened bids for heavy equipment and gravel. Two bids were submitted to provide heavy equipment. It's a yearly contract with an estimated value of $48,000, renewable for two consecutive periods. Tryon Construction was chosen by the Board. Select Board member Kenn Basler asked whether it would be more fiscally sound to rent a grader. Maynard responded that it wouldn't be.

Three bids were submitted to provide gravel to the Highway Department, estimated value of $45,000. Tryon Construction was chosen.

Town Finances

At the June 9th Select Board meeting, former town accountant Barbara Gauthier came in to talk about the town's financial organization. She has been concerned over errors originating from the treasurer's office, saying that mistakes continue, noting that some accounts have been showing erroneous sums while the "books have never been balanced from July ['13] to June ['14]." Barbara and Kenn Basler resolved to meet with both the town accountant and treasurer to try to solve some of the issues arising in the organization of town finances to make sure that things begin to go more smoothly and accurately. The Select Board thanked Barbara for all of the time and effort she has put into helping the town. Since the meeting, the Finance Committee reported that things with the treasurer's office have improved.

An idea had been floated to change payroll duty from the treasurer's office to the accountant, but at the June 23rd Select Board meeting, Brendan Fletcher, the town accountant, said that if the treasurer, Bethany Mielke, was all right with maintaining the task, he was okay with it as well. No change was made.

Bethany requested the appointment of former treasurer Pat Mielke as a temporary consultant to her office in the closing of the FY14 books. Kenn said that he would prefer it to be a short-term appointment, not yearlong. The town didn't authorize money for an official assistant treasurer or assistant accountant, but since things have been getting close to the July 31st deadline for closing the books, the Select Board did agree to use money from temporary employee funds to allow the hire until July 31, after which any further assistance would have to be approved by the Board.

The School

A recurring topic of discussion at Select Board meetings has been the future of the Monterey School. Kenn Basler believes that things could be improved with more person-to-person outreach between the involved parties, saying of the current state of affairs: "[The] school situation is a joint situation. . . . I don't feel that this is happening with three of the towns taking action against two of the towns."

Wayne Burkhart mentioned at the June 23rd Select Board meeting that everyone is concerned to know what Monterey as a town thinks about the school and said, "I want to know more about what the town of Monterey thinks."

Scott Jenssen made a suggestion that the Business Administrator of the Southern

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Save the Date!

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What does matter is that you come to the

Monterey Fire Company STEAK ROAST

Saturday, July 26th, 2014

Tickets will be available over the summer.

So..., we do hope you will save the date.

Berkshire Regional School District may be able to help find out the costs of the Monterey School and whether there would be any potential savings from closing it (while transferring the employees). It was later found out that any potential closing of the Monterey School would only result in $12,000–$15,000 saved annually. Kenn asserted that that the only true cost savings would be in closing the New Marlborough school, stating: "That's where the real money is."

The Minutes

An issue arose on June 16th over what should and should not be put into the official minutes from Select Board meetings. Kenn Basler said that sometimes almost too much detail goes into the minutes and believes there needs to be room for discussion without the exact details of any given conversation being put in, while continuing to have in the minutes that the conversation took place. There was a comment that the minutes should be a more "sensitive reflection" of what goes on at the meetings, speaking in reference to specifics from the minutes from a previous week.

The town's executive secretary, Melissa Noe, who submits the official minutes to the Select Board, stated that it is important to have detailed minutes as they reflect realistically on elected officials. She commented that any edits that are made to the minutes by the Select Board before final approval are documented, yet the original "rough draft" copy of the minutes is still retained, and anyone can request access, along with the tapes from the meeting.

Steven Weisz

Mystery author B.B. Haywood (second from left, aka Beth Feeman) at her June 21st book signing at General Store.

Scott Jenssen noted that he believes that the minutes serve to reflect on topics of discussion rather than any specific details and personal opinions given by attendees of Select Board meetings, saying: "We need to be a little more professional about . . . calling people out in minutes," and "I feel that they're a little too personal than business." Kenn suggested that the official minutes "get rid of the adjectives and adverbs."

Monterey Historical Commission

A list was released by the commonwealth which registers Monterey's historic assets, ranging from buildings to stoves. Steve Weisz, a member of the Monterey Historical Commission, came to the June 23rd Select Board meeting to discuss the MHC's role in proposed improvements of houses that are on the state list. The Historical Commission would like to be involved in project planning by being able to have a meeting with a property owner before a project is undertaken and make suggestions on what the person could do to maintain and preserve the historical look and feel of Monterey. Kenn suggested penning a letter from the Historical Commission to the owners of properties

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on the list informing them about having a meeting to receive advisements about potential improvements.

Parks and Recreation

At the June 16th Select Board meeting, Police Chief Gareth Backhaus, who also serves as the Lake Garfield harbormaster, came in to discuss a lake issue. A potential difficulty arose after the chief told the Board that he had realized that the boats anchored just outside the swimming area should really be limited in number and that in the future there may have to be a random drawing of permits to determine who can anchor a boat in those spots, per his research of the proper procedure of boat permitting.

Berkshire Fence has generously donated a shed for use at Greene Park! The process began as the spring baseball season wound down and a number of dedicated parents mused about how to thank coaches Jim Edelman and Steve Graves for their many years of volunteer service to Monterey's youth baseball teams. Before too long, a shed was proposed. The shed is 8'x12' and can be used for storing baseball, softball, and maintenance equipment year round. At the June 23rd Select Board meeting maps were examined to determine where the shed could be placed. There are now markers on the grass where the shed will go. Within a few weeks, our park will have a beautiful new addition to facilitate America's pastime and Monterey recreation. ॐ

Conservation Commission Seeking New Member

The Conservation Commission is accepting letters of interest from residents to fill a vacancy on the Commission for a three-year term.

Why are Wetlands Important?

Wetland resource areas provide critical habitat for wildlife and help maintain the aesthetic beauty of our town. They also provide priceless yet "free" services, including:

- Drinking water purification
- Groundwater recharge
- Flood control
- Pollution prevention

The Massachusetts Conservation Commission Act, passed in 1957, authorized each town in Massachusetts to establish a locally appointed municipal agency to plan for natural resource protection, acquire important land and water areas, and manage these properties for conservation and passive recreation.

Wetland resource areas include the commonly known *cattail marshes,* open water *ponds, rivers* that generally flow throughout the year, 200-foot *riverfront areas* which border rivers on both sides, *intermittent streams* that dry up during part of the year, *low-lying flood plains*, and *vernal (springtime) pools.* These areas (except riverfront areas) are surrounded by *"buffer zones"*—100-foot-wide protective zones around wetlands that protect wetlands from human impacts and provide valuable wildlife habitat.

Residents willing to serve are encouraged to send a letter of interest, either by email to montereyconcomm@verizon.net or by regular mail to Monterey Conservation Commission, P.O. Box 308, Monterey, MA 01245.

—Christopher Blair
Monterey Conservation Commission

From the Tax Collector

The fiscal year 2015 Real Estate and Personal Property first quarter tax bills will be mailed on July 1 and are due August 1, 2014. If you do not receive your bill, please contact the tax collector's office (413-528-1443 x117). These bills are preliminary and list the first two quarters based on last year's tax rate. You will receive another bill for the second quarter in October (due November 3). However, if you wish, you may pay both the first and second quarters now. Once again, pay online for current Real Estate and Personal Property bills is available at www.montereyma.gov at a minimal charge. Questions regarding personal property, assessments, or exemptions should be directed to the Board of Assessors at 413-528-1443 x115.

— Mari Enoch, Monterey Tax Collector

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Monterey Fireman's Steak Roast July 26!

One of Monterey's greatest summertime events, the Monterey Fire Company's annual steak roast, will be held Saturday, July 26, 5–7 p.m., at the firehouse on 411 Main Road.

In addition to the food—steaks, swordfish, assorted side dishes, salad, desserts, beer, wine, and soft drinks—there will be live music and entertainment for the children.

Tickets are $25 each. They can be purchased in any of the following ways:

- from any Monterey firefighter;
- in downtown Monterey and at the Transfer Station on weekends in July;
- on Wednesday evenings at the firehouse, from 7 to 9 p.m.; or
- by calling 528-3136 (leave a message and someone will get back to you).

The Monterey Fire Company hopes to see you all then.

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Monterey Community Center Gets State Grant

We are thrilled with the news from the Massachusetts Cultural Council that the Monterey Community Center has been awarded a matching funds grant of $40,000 for renovation work on the center. Although we don't yet have details on the matching funds part, or when the money will be available, we are carrying on with our fundraising and construction planning, and shifting into a higher gear.

The Community Garden's Annual Plant Sale was once again quite successful, and things are growing well this year with all the rain we've had. The grounds are mowed, and the water tank is full from roof runoff. Stop in any time to enjoy the scene.

You will find some of us downtown most weekends this summer selling raffle tickets for the handsome quilt made for us by the Monterey Piecemakers. The drawing will be on October 11 at our Octoberfest, so buy your tickets and mark the date—you don't have to be present to win, but we hope you will come enjoy that day in any case. There will be more details to come in the next few months.

The Community Center program is off to a running start with the first events in our interim schedule. There are still two spots available at the time of this writing in the Painting Workshop titled "Plein Air Basics," taught by Joe Baker on July 12 at the grounds of the Community Center. Please get more information or register by calling Joe at 413-528-9385. In August we'll be holding a Nature Walk on the property as well as Outdoor Yoga sessions; look for information on these in the August issue.

Learn more about the Community Center online at www.ccmonterey.org, where you can make secure online donations and also purchase quilt raffle tickets. Thank you for your support.

—Joe Baker

New Editor for News

The *Monterey News* is undergoing a lot of changes these days. One of them is that we have a new assistant editor, Stephen Moore. He comes into this position while we slowly let go our longtime editor Will Marsh, who, along with his wife (and our photographer and proofreader) Glynis, is retiring to North Carolina, whence he long ago now came.

Over the summer, Will is training Steve in the craft of gathering and editing copy, laying out the paper, and getting it all to press. Already Steve has shown proficiency at this in anticipation of being senior (indeed, solo, editor).

So, we readers and beneficiaries of the *News* have been in good hands, and we will continue to be in good hands. Welcome, Steve, of whom you'll learn more in an upcoming "Who's Who." As for good-bye to Will and Glynis, please, not quite yet!

—Liz Goodman

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Monterey Library Notes

Happy summer everyone! Make sure to stop in to the library this summer to check out all that is going on. There are some reading logs for the kids to use to keep track of their summer reading. Sign up and get a prize just for that! Saturday mornings at 10:30 starting July 5 will feature entertainment for all ages but especially children. Thanks to the Monterey Cultural Council and the Friends of the Monterey Library, we have some wonderful and informative entertainers. The programs begin on July 5, when Jeff Boyer—whom you might remember as the Bubble Man from a couple of years ago—will present a program entitled Fun with Energy that is sure to inform as well as entertain. Check out the schedule in the *Monterey News* calendar or on our website. Our programs are all free of charge and a great way to start off the weekend.

Moxie the reading dog has retired, but Barbara Wolf Dorlester has trained a new dog, Flint, that would be glad to read with children—especially those kids who are just learning to read and would gain confidence by reading to someone who will pay attention without offering much criticism. Flint will be making appearances at 10 a.m. on July 12 and 19, as well as August 9 and 16.

Don't forget to check out all the items we circulate. We have books, audio books, and DVDs. We also have museum passes good for free or reduced admission to some of Berkshire County's premier cultural institutions. Our public computers and printers are a big help in our underserved Internet-connection community, and if you can't come when we're open please sit outside and use our free Wi-Fi.

When the dust had settled from the Library Planning and Design grant round at the Board of Library Commissioners meeting in June, the Monterey Library was not on the list of successful applications. Ours was the next ranked application and the commissioners' staff scrambled to find some funds to award the Monterey Library. They expect the Board of Library Commissioners will award the Monterey Library a special grant at their July meeting. Over the past year we have written about the need to examine our library and review how this 1931 building can fulfill the library needs of our town. This grant will allow us to explore several alternative plans and let the town make an informed and rational choice of how best to proceed with either renovating or rebuilding the library.

We're about to start the building needs committee for real—it's not too late to express an interest. If you can't get involved in the committee, please consider helping us out when we seek town input about what services are important to you. This will be a long process, and we hope to make sure everyone who would like to voice an opinion has the chance to do so. We still need to raise several thousand dollars to match the state monies, so please consider supporting the Friends of the Monterey Library!

Don't forget to donate your good condition books for the sale up to July 15th and restock your shelves at the annual booksale on July 26th from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Where else will you be able to redecorate at such low prices? At the same time you will be contributing to a real need for the town.

Careful thought and planning will help make this process result in a library that will serve all the town of Monterey in the many ways that only a free public library can.

—Mark Makuc, Library Director

Fire Company Reports Increase in Calls

With the closing of the fiscal year in June, the Monterey Fire Company's emergency responses tallied 103, an increase from 93 calls the previous year.

The breakdown is as follows:

- 53 emergency medical service calls, including motor vehicle accidents, three of which required extrication of victims;
- 22 false alarm calls;
- 12 fires, ten of which were building fires, one chimney fire, and one wildland fire;
- 10 hazardous conditions calls, including one gas leak and six carbon monoxide incidents;
- 5 good intent calls (for example, responding to a report of smoke in a building and discovering the smoke is caused by cooking); and
- 1 service call.

—Felix Carroll
Monterey Fire Company

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Township No.1 Day July 5
Free Community Celebration

The Bidwell House Museum is inviting Monterey and Tyringham residents and all friends to the Art School Road fields for a free celebration of Tyringham and Monterey history on Saturday, July 5, from 1 to 4:30 p.m. The event is named for the earliest official designation for the settlement—it was called "Township No. 1 at Hoosatonnuck" in 1737. The name was officially changed to Tyringham at the town's incorporation in 1762, and it included both towns until they split in1847.

The Bidwell House is planning a full afternoon of programs and entertainment for all ages. Some highlights:

• Live music in the tent: Starting at 1:00 p.m. Monterey's own Bonner McAllester and Joe Baker followed by Steve and Pete Adams of Tyringham at 1:45. Beginning at 2:30 Moonshine Holler will perform their "two person music festival capturing the essence of American roots music," including fiddle, banjo, guitar, Hawaiian guitar, harmonica and ukulele—and with some old-time flatfoot dancing to boot. Moonshine Holler, Paula Bradley and Bill Dillof, have performed across the country and abroad.

• For the young and young-at-heart: Games, crafts, popcorn, face-painting, a scavenger hunt and more.

• For the local history buff: "Monterey and the American Revolution," a talk by Barbara Swann, Monterey Historical Society. "Early Industries of the Berkshires," a talk by Charlie Flint. A "History of the Tyringham Rake Factories" exhibit by the Tyringham Historical Commission. A "Berkshire Summer School of Art" exhibit by the Monterey Historical Society.

• Colonial Re-Enactors: Nine historic characters, including two Native Americans, two Quaker refugees, two or three Loyalist soldiers (Butler's Rangers), and some baggage (the eighteenth-century war term for women and children). They will set up three or four tents to show how they lived, dressed, cooked, and spent their days during the time of the American Revolution.

• Historic crafts: The McAlisters of Monterey will demonstrate metal forging. Wendy Jensen of Monterey will demonstrate basketweaving.

• Michael White and crew of Michael White Contractors, Mill River, will demonstrate timber framing using vintage woodworking tools.

• On the Grounds: "Butterfly Gardening" talk by head gardener Ruth Green; "Meeting House Walk" led by Rob Hoogs.

• For the baker (or the taster): A baking contest. Bring your favorite home-baked pies, cakes, or cookies by 1:25 and enter them in the taste-off. There will be prizes for the best confections. Entry forms can be found on the museum's website.

Township No. 1 Day is supported in part by grants from the Monterey and Tyringham Cultural Councils.

Tag Sale to Benefit Monterey Community Center

Start clearing out your basements and attics . . . The Monterey Tag Sale is not far off!

This year the tag sale will be held (rain or shine) on Saturday, July 19, at 69 Hupi Woods Circle from 10 a.m. until 1p.m.

You can bring over your items on Friday July 18, from 10 a.m. until noon or on Saturday morning from 9–10 a.m. Or call Myrna at 413-528-9090 to make other arrangements. And make sure you come by to check out the bargains!

Any and all items in decent condition are acceptable. All proceeds go directly to the Community Center.

Do not miss out on being a part of this wonderful community effort: Saturday, July 19, 69 Hupi Woods Circle.

— Myrna Rosen

The Bidwell House is at 100 Art School Road, Monterey. Please note that the museum building is closed for tours this day. The museum is open Thursdays to Mondays (closed Tuesdays and Wednesdays) from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. with tours on the hour, Memorial Day to Columbus Day. The museum grounds—192 acres of woods, fields, historic stonewalls, trails and picnic sites—are open all year free of charge. For more information, call the museum 413-528-6888 or go to www.bidwellhousemuseum.org.

—Barbara Palmer, Executive Director

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News from the Knox Gallery

The Knox Gallery, run by volunteers with the support of the Friends of the Monterey Library, has garnered much enthusiasm since its first installation premiered in December 2010. Each year the exhibits seem to be increasingly well attended, opening receptions are livelier than ever, and artists regularly submit proposals for future exhibits. We are pleased with the interest generated by our three artists' talks each year. (These gallery talks are sponsored by the Massachusetts and Monterey Cultural Councils.) Thank you to all who support our efforts to make the Knox Gallery and our library a vibrant and interesting cultural centerpiece of Monterey!

Our goal is to reach an even broader audience and support base.

Why?

First, during the few days each month when one show has come down and the new one is not yet installed we see disappointed faces looking at blank walls, missing the art and inspiration. Perhaps that setting best illustrates how sad it would be if we lacked the support to keep the gallery going.

Second, and perhaps more importantly, the gallery supports the Monterey Library! The Friends of the Library receive a percentage of all sales to run programs. Visitors to the gallery buy used books. Our state funding for the library is based in part on how many people use the library, and the gallery and exhibits raise attendance.

Would you like to be sure the Knox Gallery prospers? Here are a few things anyone and everyone can do:

Come to our opening receptions! They are fun, and well attended, but we hope those of you who have never been will join us. Refreshments from the Monterey General Store are provided courtesy of the Friends of the Library. Our next reception is Saturday evening, July 12, from 6–7:30 p.m. (See below.)

Buy art! Encourage your friends to buy art! We exhibit beautiful and innovative work by serious amateurs and accomplished professionals alike. The prices are quite reasonable. The group shows, particularly, feature many lovely and inexpensive pieces. Think birthday and holiday gifts! Remember: 20% of all sales goes to support the library.

Exhibit your work! Forms outlining requirements for exhibits are available on the library page of the town website (www.montereyma.gov), or you can contact one of the Knox Gallery committee members for more information. (It is not necessary to sell your work in order to exhibit.)

Participate in community exhibits! We hope to fill the gallery with a broad array of photographs this summer, and to that end have extended the deadline for *CLICKED! In Monterey*. Please obtain "intent to enter" forms from the library or town website and submit pronto if you are able to participate. Ready-to-hang work must be delivered to the library during normal hours on Monday, July 7, or Tuesday, July 8.

Leave your email in our guestbook to receive gallery and library updates from Friends of the Monterey Library.

Like us at Facebook: Facebook.com/Knox Gallery.

Follow us on Twitter @Knox_Gallery.

Last but not least . . . Please visit our exhibits, and remember that your presence helps keep our library vital and strong.

Leonard Weber: 50 Years of Berkshire Impressions will be on view through July 5. *CLICKED! In Monterey*, opens July 11 and continues through August 23. All exhibits can be viewed during library hours.

—MaryPaul Yates

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A community exhibition of photographs taken in Monterey, Massachusetts during the last year.

July 11 - August 23

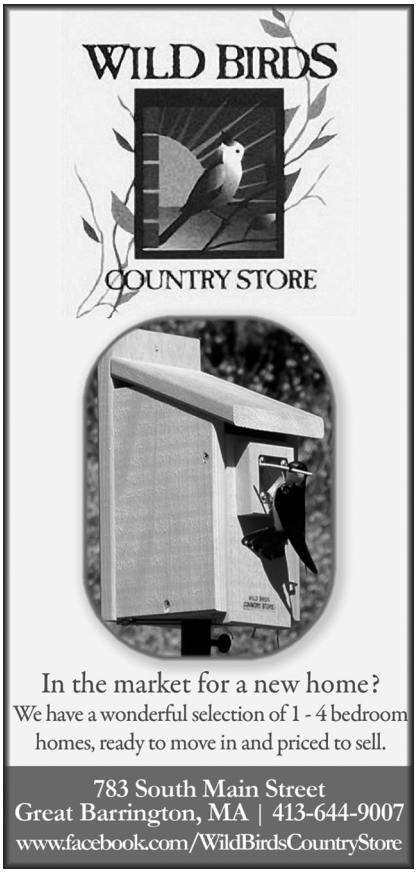
Opening Reception:
Saturday, July 12, 6-7:30pm

KNOX GALLERY
Monterey Library

Poetry Workshop with Don Barkin

A free six-session course in poetry reading and writing will be offered in Monterey starting July 7. The workshop is sponsored by the Monterey Cultural Council. It will be taught by Monterey resident Don Barkin, a widely published poet and experienced teacher. The classes will take place on Mondays from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Monterey Library. The workshop is open to adults sixteen and over. No experience is necessary. Members will read great poems, old and new, and try their hand at writing poems, in forms such as the ballad and the sonnet, as well as in free verse. Anyone who is interested can email Don, mbarkin@snet.net or call him at 413-528-3145.

A collection of Don Barkin's poems, *That Dark Lake*, was published by Antrim House in 2009 and was a finalist for the Poetry Book of the Year from the Connecticut Center for the Book. He has taught writing for many years at Yale, Wesleyan, and Connecticut College and at private and public high schools. He was educated at Harvard and Cambridge universities.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MontereyFest 2014

Saturday, August 9

Proceeds to benefit the Monterey Community Center

Around Town

9:00 a.m.: Fishing Derby for Kids at the Fish Hatchery
10:30 a.m.: Magician at Monterey Library
11:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.: Bidwell House Tours
12:00–1:00 p.m.: Gould Farm Walks

. . . And at Lake Garfield Town Beach

2:00 p.m.: Fun for All
- Face Painting
- Boat Rides
- Bounce House
- Tug of War
- Sand Castles
- Jay Amidon Band annual jam

3:00–4:00 p.m.: Balloon Man

5:00 pm: Dinner
- BYO drinks and picnic
- Hot dogs, popcorn, snowcones served to supplement your picnic

6:00–7:00 p.m.: Campfire, with songs byMary Jo
9:00 p.m.: the movie "FROZEN" at the beach on a giant screen

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Monterey 2020 Community Conversation Continues

While the sun was shining outside, inside Town Hall an enthusiastic group of full and part-time residents along with guests met on June 7 to get updates, discuss a variety of topics, and hear about our town's history.

The Monterey School

A comprehensive update was given by Maria Rundle, Monterey's representative to the Regional School Committee. Somehow there is a misperception that bridges and roads compete with one-room schoolhouses for funding here in south Berkshire County. Maria said that we in Monterey are combating a lot of misinformation that was published in the *Eagle* and *Record* newspapers. Also Select Board members from other towns have been quoted saying such things as the people in Monterey do not want to pay for a schoolhouse and program. There was talk back and forth between Monterey and New Marlborough towns after some of the cuts in the budgets district wide led to talk about keeping kids in their respective home communities and the cost efficiency in that type of plan. The regional school district has not been helping Monterey put out notices well in advance of families signing up for the early childhood education program here in Monterey. There was one open house and now the school closed for the summer on June 23.

Steven Weisz

It is important to keep reminding folks to make the distinction between the school program and the school building.

Adding to Maria's report, several people gave individual views of the school. For more than 136 years our Monterey school has provided generations of children with an excellent education. Currently efforts are underway to preserve both the school building and the school program in Monterey. Attendees were reminded that to preserve both we need to continue to inform the towns (that comprise the Southern Berkshire Regional School District) that Monterey residents strongly support community schooling for our children. Libby Wolf asked: "How can we continue to provide a vibrant and vital school program if we cannot attract young families to Monterey, and isn't this partly due to cost of real estate?" This question led Larry Klein to provide updated information from the Planning Board.

Land Use and Agriculture

The conversation concerning the Monterey school led to a discussion about how to make housing affordable for young families as well as young people interested in farming. Larry Klein said, "Although not a new idea, the permitted use of accessory dwellings (which could also provide housing for elders) in town is currently being discussed by the Board." Larry went on to inform us about the Board's latest efforts to look into cluster zoning versus the current two-acre minimum lot size.

Wayne Burkhart said that Gould Farm is suggesting a person who might fill the vacant seat on the Monterey Agriculture Commission to serve with Dick Tryon and Bettina Schwartz.

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HUME New England

Representatives from HUME New England gave a brief talk about their efforts to provide summer camp activities on their property while occasionally bringing campers to Lake Garfield. Since purchasing Keswick, HUME is upgrading its facilities in an effort to also host guest groups for retreats year round. Although not open to the public, HUME plans to offer the use of its new gym for town-related events when it is constructed. Lastly, questions were asked about the status of a cell tower on HUME property. Very recently HUME was able to reopen talks with a cellular provider, and Larry Klein brought the Community Conversation up to date on that project.

Broadband

Those present were also informed that efforts to bring broadband (high speed Internet service) to Monterey are moving forward through the all-volunteer WiredWest, which is now a cooperative of forty-three towns. They are currently seeking funding through financial markets as well as receiving money from participating towns to contribute additional dollars. Stay tuned.

As Our History Plays Out

The Community Conversation ended with a special presentation by Karl Finger of his "The Ballad of Route 23." In the early 1970s, Karl and a highly motivated group of Monterey citizens traveled to Boston to let the Commonwealth know that some in Monterey were opposed to the redirection of Route 23 around the village and through ecologically sensitive land. Karl composed the song on the bus (as Barbara Tryon lyrically described) and then sang "The Ballad of Route 23" on the floor of the Massachusetts State House as our neighbors expressed their concerns about the multimillion dollar highway project. Ultimately the Route 23 highway project was scrapped.

The Conversation Continues

With the busy summer season, Monterey 2020 is planning another Community Conversation in August. Stay tuned for the date and time. Everyone is welcome.

Meanwhile several people will be hosting Conversations at Home in July and August. Please let us know if you would like to host a Conversation with your friends, family and neighbors: www.monterey2020.org.

—Dennis Lynch, Steven Weisz, Wendy Germain

Bidwell House Museum Summer Art School Party

The place to be on the afternoon of August 2nd is the Bidwell House Museum's Garden Party at the hilltop site of the former Berkshire Summer School of Art. All friends, neighbors, and members of the community from near and far are invited from 4 to 7 p.m. to spend a charmed summer afternoon in one of the most beautiful spots in the Berkshires.

Guests will stroll the grounds watching artists at work, take in the view from the Carrington Hall porch, enjoy delectable hors d'oeuvres, and bid on treasures to take home—all to benefit the museum. The Plein Air Trio will play 1920s jazz, and guests are invited to don "artsy" attire.

The now-private property of the former Berkshire Summer School of Art and the historic Carrington Hall is the spectacular setting of this year's Bidwell House Museum party, a rare opportunity to see this private estate. The summer art school, situated atop a hillside of the Beartown Mountain ridge, was part of the Bidwell House Museum property in the early twentieth century. From 1915 to 1936—the height of the Arts and Crafts and Plein Air movements—distinguished artists and art faculty from Pratt Institute taught on these grounds. Students stayed in forty-five small bungalow tents set up in "villages." They gathered for lessons and socializing in Carrington Hall. Founders Ray Ensign and Ernest Watson lived on the property, Ensign in the Bidwell House. Descendants of Ernest Watson will be attending the party.

The summer gala is the major fundraising event of the year for the museum, supporting the historic 1750s homestead, all programs, and the 192 acres of grounds, open to the community year round. Tickets to the Summer Art Party are $50 per person before July 25, $60 at the door, and can be reserved by contacting the museum office at 413-528-6888, or go to the website: www.bidwellhousemuseum.org.

ॐ

Who's Who in Monterey
Gabi Makuc

Liz Goodman

What little reading I've done about individualism and collectivism has me know that these are often taken to be opposites, rivals even. What's more, this rivalry is considered the defining conflict of the twentieth century. But I'm a child of the late cold war; I graduated high school the same year the Berlin wall fell. So I'm suspicious that these two states are so easily separated from one another. I think these aren't rivals but correlates.

Maybe it's odd that a simple conversation could give way to such big ideas. But when that conversation is with Gabi Makuc, it's not odd at all. Serious yet light-hearted, thoughtful yet expressive, the oldest child of her big and tight-knit family, Gabi embodies such delightful contradictions. She is evidence that the most confident and self-knowing individuals often emerge from the most committed and loving collectives.

Just consider how she experienced her homecoming from her second year of college the evening before she and I met. Her mother, her father, her two younger brothers, and her two younger sisters each greeted her in such a way as only each of them would, and Gabi recognized the fact as it unfolded. "How do you explain that?" I asked—that they could all be so close but all be so themselves—and her mind went to the family dinner table. There the Makucs discuss and sometimes disagree, consider things from each of their own perspectives, and create a conversation that would suffer from lesser engagement. This is how it happened—engaged and engaging discussion; and this is what it's like—"a Mozart opera," she said, all separate moving parts but moving quite literally in harmony.

No surprise, then, that the family began at Gould Farm. Gabi, born at Fairview Hospital, came home to this working farm where individuals in community are healed and made more whole, and where her mother was a house advisor. There she spent her first few years, which she trusts as having been good though she has few specific memories from those earliest days. She remembers a llama of which she was afraid. She remembers McKee School at which she met her first friends. But as the family grew, Gabi's mother decided, after seven years of service, to leave her position so, though her father continued on as the licensed water operator there, they all moved off the Farm. They cleared the land where their house is now, and have been there ever since.

But none of this mentions what is most obvious about Gabi—that she is a musician, a pianist. She began to play when she was five years old, under the instruction of her aunt, Mari, meeting with her every Sunday afternoon. Gabi would practice causally, playfully, when the mood struck and she was near the piano. But as she grew, she became more serious about it, more committed. Eventually, she enrolled for lessons at the Berkshire Music School in Pittsfield. Soon enough, too, she was performing.

She remembers her first concert fondly. She was a fourth grader at the New Marlborough School. She'd been playing for peers whose opinions of her really mattered, and though it was a long time ago now, she remembers the piece she played, "Faerie March" (or something like that). What stayed with her also was that now familiar combination of feelings—excitement and nervousness, challenge and achievement. There is some anxiety, too, in playing for an audience, but that largely depends on the sort of audience for which she's playing. Her favorite sort are those that listen not merely critically but also with a sense of wonder and joy. "I like playing here," she says, indicating the church, where she accompanies hymns on alternating Sundays throughout the summer, "and at Our Lady of the Hills"—any place where the people are open to really hearing.

This isn't to say, however, that Gabi's playing can't withstand critical engage-

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ment. On the contrary, the teacher she worked with most recently, and for the longest time, in Berkshire County, is Jean Stackhouse, whose musicianship and pedagogy are themselves something of an institution, and an intimidating one at that! Since then, Gabi has gone on to matriculate at the Conservatory at Lawrence University, where playing for a critical audience is a regular and frequent experience. She has also attended music camps that require an audition and that put her in close company of other musicians of her high caliber, and this summer she'll be a counselor at one of those programs.

Her love for music, however, isn't exclusive to the piano as a solo or orchestral instrument. Some of her fondest memories from high school (of which she has many, visibly brightening as she does at the thought of Mt. Everett School) involve her assisting in the production of the musicals, two of her favorites being *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown* and *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*. Not quite a member of the company, she assisted with the whole production, working with the soloists, chorus, and instrumentalists to tighten up the performances. I wondered whether her peers could accept her in a teaching role, and she indicated that they could, which I think is testament to her character and personality. Not on an "ego trip," she had nothing to prove; she was simply working that everyone might do his or her best—setting people up to succeed.

There have been some recent surprises in Gabi's life. She began college thinking she'd go into music education, and even visited a music classroom in a public school to explore whether this would be a good fit. She found that she thought it wouldn't be: as important as she acknowledges music education to be in our schools, she realizes this isn't where she will be most effective and fulfilled. At the same time, she's found herself very interested in studying the Bible and other religious texts. This recalls to her how much she enjoyed throughout her early schooling being given a text—whether in history or English class—to consider and then interpreting it. She always trusted, "If my teacher gave it to us to read, then it must have something important to say."

And so it's been that she's changed her focus in school from music education to religious studies and music performance, now including the organ. She might pursue a church job (and I'm here to say, "Lucky church!") but she might also find other ways to bring music and mission together. She is in particular moved by *El Sistema*, which emerged from Venezuela but has become a global movement that, according to their website (elsistemausa.org), "transforms the lives of children through music" and is "a new model for social change . . . a tested model of how a music program can both create great musicians and dramatically change the life trajectory of hundreds of thousands of a nation's neediest kids." I imagine one way it does this is by encouraging individual children to pursue excellence in each of their individual expressions but also to join a group of musicians so to make music as no one person could make it alone. Certainly, this is a balance of the individual among the collective that Gabi has mastered with grace and joy.

"So, what makes you impatient?" I asked her, this wonderfully patient young woman. At this, she thought for a moment, a *patient* moment, until she finally said, "Disengagement—when you know someone's got something on their mind, and they won't tell you what it is." And I thought, what a perfect answer! Gabi is pretty and sweet, but don't mistake her for a hothouse flower. She doesn't need a precious environment; she seeks out an engaging one. But here's what's best of all: whether at home, at school, or at a keyboard, she creates such an environment as well.

—Liz Goodman

Summer Services at Our Lady of Hills Chapel

The Roman Catholic church in Monterey, Our Lady of the Hills, will be open for Mass beginning Saturday, July 5. The masses are every Saturday evening through the end of August. The eucharistic celebration begins at 7 p.m. Rev. Bruce Teague will be the celebrant. Yes, this is the tiny chapel with the stained glass angel, not far from Lake Garfield at 70 Beartown Mountain Road.

Everyone is welcome. If you would like to be on a list of lectors or altar servers, or help with the music, please email marymakuc@gmail.com.

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July Bidwell House Museum History Talks

July 12: Slavery in New England

The popular story of early New England is of an unusual land of hard work and thrift and curtness and fervent religiosity, colonized by stern people wearing somber clothes. Missing from the story is the role slavery played in colonization of the Northeast. Professor Wendy Warren is visiting the Bidwell House Museum History Talk series on Saturday, July 12 at 10 a.m. to talk about her research into the lived experience of chattel bondage in seventeenth-century New England.

Warren's talk will describe the relationship between two of history's most violent enterprises: slavery and colonization. Between the sixteenth and nineteenth centuries, a period that exactly coincides with the colonial periods of North and South America, nearly thirteen million Africans were enslaved and shipped west across the Atlantic, while two to four million Native Americans were enslaved and traded by European colonists in the Americas. Slavery and colonization went hand-in-hand. Without colonies to grow staple crops like sugar, rice, and tobacco, and to offer wealth in the form of valuable minerals, there would have been much less need for slaves. Without Indian and African slaves, there would have been no labor to grow the crops or to extract those minerals—at least not labor cost efficient enough to create the profits that made the whole system worthwhile. It was a deadly symbiosis.

That symbiosis drove the colonization of all the Americas, including the small region known as New England, a place that often seems exceptional in the annals of early American history. The tragedy that dominates the narrative of most other seventeenth-century English attempts at colonization in North America and the Caribbean, the problem of slavery, hardly appears in the story of earliest New England. This talk will explain why it should.

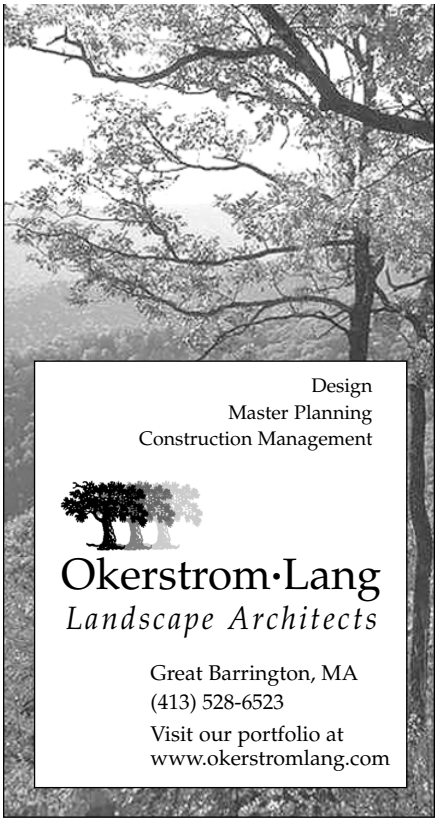
Wendy Warren received her PhD in history from Yale University and is currently an Assistant Professor of History at Princeton University. Her book, *New England Bound: Slavery and Colonization at the Edge of an Empire*, is forthcoming from Liveright/W. W. Norton.

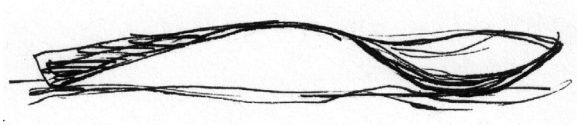
July 26: Love and Separation

On Saturday, July 26, Nicholas Marshall, Professor of History at Marist College, will visit the Bidwell History Talk series to explore a central issue for ordinary Americans in the nineteenth century: the love for family members and the near constant fear of loss.

The people of the pre–Civil War era were hit hard by cultural and demographic forces peculiar to the period: the celebration of emotional attachments and the frequent breaking of these same bonds. There was an omnipresent fear of separation from loved ones due mainly to death (from disease and accidents), but also to migration west. Professor Marshall draws on discussions about love for spouses, lovers, parents, and children in letters, diaries, and memory albums of the period. He posits that nineteenth-century Americans worked out the psychological and sociological tension by developing new ways of practicing religion, advocating temperance, and adopting antislavery positions.

The Bidwell House Museum History Talks are held at Tyringham Union Church, Main Road, Tyringham at 10 a.m., $15 per person, $10 for museum members. The Bidwell House Museum is located at 100 Art School Road in Monterey. For more information, call 413-528-6888 or go to www.bidwellhousemuseum.org.





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Open the Eyes

All despite the lash of Time
My eyes stay open and are resigned
To watch the beauty mingle with terror
Out of lonesome desperation.
So rarely we find that sweet shade of light
That vanishes thought and feeds our hearts.
In our lives we are given one mind
And within it, but one ray of light
That illuminates all that we hope to forget
And all that we need to remember.
Open your eyes: illuminate the world.
Give the beauty cause to believe,
And the looming shadows pause to remember
The source from which they were sprung.

—Daniel Senser

Peace of Mind

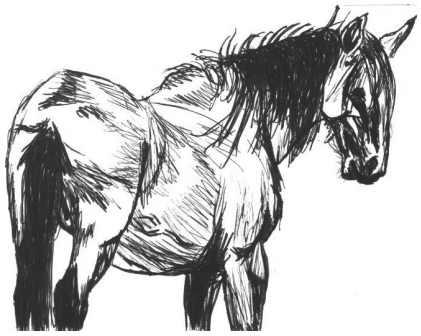
"Good grief!" Two small words;
Syllables expand claylike,
My tongue sticking
Clammy, fishing for a grin.
I drown in pretense's silt.

—Joseph Makuc

The Snake

Winding spiral, jet
On grass; spears rise beneath dark
Windows, slithering.

— Joseph Makuc



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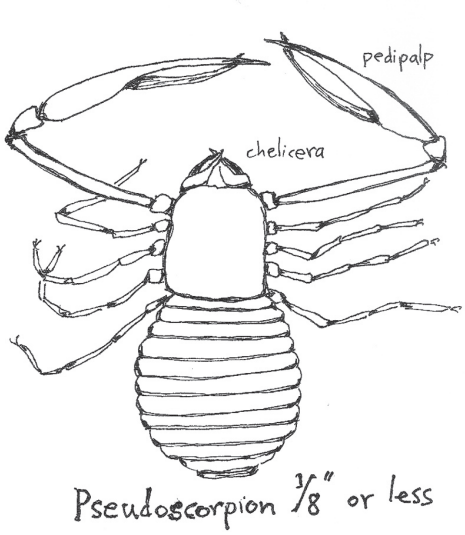
Names:Land Crab, Lobster Insect, Pseudoscorpion

Once I was talking to a young man about a plant I know as "phragmites." He is knowledgeable about plants, but he looked puzzled by this word. I tried another name:"common reed." Still he didn't recognize it, and I wanted to ask him all about it because he knows so much. Finally, I began describing it by habitat (swampy places), leaves (it is a grass) and seeds (big plume on top).

Now he knew it. He did not know its name, but he was most familiar with it, as I knew he would be, and we were off and running about how you can eat it, make paper of it, and all sorts of things. He laughed, "I don't remember the name sometimes, just the energy of the plant."

I often think of this exchange, which took place on Amtrak headed west. This was Michael, going to Oregon to teach at an outdoor school for the summer. I like to picture him teaching, yet dodging names and going right to "the energy."

We had some energy here recently, in the form of a tiny creature with eight walking legs and two pairs of "other appendages," one of which looked very like long slim crab claws. I was tempted to use the word, "crab," but this brings to mind much larger marine animals, which I knew this was not. This animal was a scant one-eighth-inch, claws and all. Besides resembling a crab, it had a mobility like I'd never seen. I spotted it on the kitchen counter and offered it a slip of paper to climb up on so I could see it better. It went for it, but when I lifted it up to scrutinize, it ran for cover, which consisted of scurrying smoothly right over the edge—but not dropping to the counter! It just zipped right over the edge and onto the under side, no hesitation, no problem. It did this again and again, absolutely smoothly and fast.



I wanted to know what this was. It was roughly the size of one of those tiny newly hatched ticks, but they don't move like that and they don't have micro crab claws. Even the athletic and agile spiders don't move like this thing did, also no crab claws. I didn't know what it was and I knew I had never ever seen one of these things before. At the same time, I was about to lose it forever as it was more practiced and clever with its evasive scurrying than I was at flipping and flipping a small piece of paper. Plus, I am a human being burdened with a wish not to distress other living beings, especially "brand new first ever seen on this planet by me in my lifetime" living beings. With my remaining skills and strength, I got outside and blew it off the paper. So long, pal.

I did not forget it though. It was nagging me way back to my student-self days, Invertebrate Zoology, 1968, Antioch College. Maybe I had the little critter on a quiz? In a book? I never had one in the energy before, I know that.

Finally it hit me. "Pseudoscorpion!" I got out the textbook from that long-ago class, and there it was, in black and white. I bet I got that one right on the quiz, because it was still with me, straight out of the book.

Pseudoscorpions have one of those suggestive common names, like "false hellebore," or "false Solomon's seal." For the name to be helpful you have to know a little about the "true" version, to put you in the ballpark, but then ever after you have to keep straight which is the Yes one and which is the No. It would be a lot

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more work but less confusing if we all had our very own names. As far as I can tell, no one has put the effort into dreaming up a unique name for this creature. Even its scientific name, *Chelifer cancroides*, means that its long front pointy claws (pedipalps) are like those of a crab, which is an animal named "cancer." I looked this up and found out why this is, which is something I'd always wondered. It is about a type of tumor that looks like a crab body with legs extending out from it, these being actually swollen veins. That kind of tumor is called a "creeping ulcer."

In 1665 Robert Hooke wrote *Micrographia* and called these tiny animals land crabs. About one hundred years later George Adams, English optician, wrote them up as "lobster insects." (*Essays on the Microscope*, 1787). Here in modern times we say "false scorpion," as we manage to say what this reminds us of, but yet is not. Kind of like "New England," or "Monterey." We'd be better off if we just knew all these things by their energy.

Maybe we can know them by what they do. These little animals come into our houses piggy-backing on other animals or insects. This "catching a ride" even has its own name: phoresy. It means riding along on the back of something else, but in a relationship that is not parasitic. Another thing they do is grab a tiny prey animal for a meal, for instance a mosquito or a clothes moth larva, and inject it with a little venom from the end of the claw. The prey is paralyzed or worse by this, and those long claws hold it up close to a second set of shorter pedipalps, right in front of the mouth, which tear it to bits. The mouth (buccal chamber) puts out some digestive enzymes all over the broken-up prey, so then the pseudoscorpion drinks in a partly digested bug soup, filtering out the broken bits with special hairs. This is like the way spiders eat, though they don't have the equipment for tearing up the meal. They just suck up the soup and leave an empty bug behind, wrapped in silk.

Pseudoscorpions make silk, too, and some of them use this during mating to lay a trail of threads that guides the female to the place where the male has left a package of sperm waiting. The silk trail is scented with come-hither, or pheromones.

There are over a thousand different kinds of pseudoscorpions, and they don't all do everything exactly the same way. Some live on seaweed near the coast and drift around as the tides go up and down. Some live in caves. Some lived 380 million years ago and look nearly exactly the same as the one I saw. They've been preserved in amber.

I'll never forget that tiny active marvel I saw. I might forget its name, like I already did once, but I will always know who it is by the energy of it.

—Bonner McAllester

Poetry Reading, Book Signing by Roy Shepard July 19

Monterey summer resident Roy Shepard will read from his recently published poetry collection, *Veery Song*, at the Monterey Library on Saturday, July 19, at 3 p.m. The collection was awarded first prize in an annual chapbook contest sponsored by *Comstock Review*, an independent poetry journal. The poems are about his wife, Jana Shepard, and trace their life together over a period of almost seventy years. Written in a variety of styles and moods, the poems begin when they meet as teenagers and proceed through dating, marriage, and children. References to Monterey abound. The last part of the book is a series of reflections on his visits with Jana during her final years in an assisted living facility as she declined due to Alzheimer's disease.

Otis Library Fair July 12

The annual Otis Library Country Fair is Saturday, July 12, from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Church Village Green on Route 8 in Otis Center. Over fifty unique artists, craftsmen, and clothes vendors will be selling their products. There will also be a book sale, bake sale, cookout, and raffle prizes. The fair has been taking place for over fifteen years, thanks in part to the generosity of the First Congregational Church of Otis, and attracts locals, second homeowners, and tourists rain or shine. All proceeds go toward new library computers, books, videos, and expanded library operating hours.

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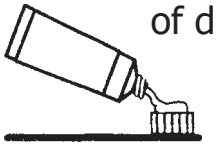

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Route 23 Monterey

Hatchery Lobsterfest Aug. 25
100th Anniversary!

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the Berkshire Fish Hatchery. To help celebrate this achievement at the twelfth annual Hatchery Lobsterfest, Chris Wood, President and CEO of Trout Unlimited will be present to honor the founding financier, angler, and benefactor John Sullivan. John, who died in 1914, left behind this treasure of an operational landmark on a bend of the Konkapot River on the border of the towns of Monterey and New Marlborough.

Trout Unlimited, a national nonprofit with 147,000 members, was founded in 1959. T.U. is dedicated to conserving, protecting, and restoring cold-water fisheries and their watersheds. Its work spans nearly a million miles of cold water all across North America to protect headwater spawning habitat for future generations of trout and salmon.

These deceased members of the Hatchery Foundation will be honored: Leroy Thorpe, Phil Gunzinger, John Doelman, Leonard Simon, and David Cathcart. In addition, these U.S. Fish and Wildlife personnel will be thanked: Bill Archambault, Deputy Fisheries Director; Henry Bouchard, Eisenhower Hatchey in Pittsford, Vermont; Jeffrey Mosher, Berkshire Hatchery; and Thomas Reeves, also Berkshire Hatchery.

The Hatchery will put on another old-fashioned gourmet New England–style full-course clambake dinner, catered by The Other Brother Darryl's from Otis, known for their convenient, prompt, and impeccable service. The hors d'oeuvres will include raw clams and oyster bar over ice with lemon cocktail and mignonette sauces and clam chowder, with one free drink of wine or beer courtesy of Domaney's Liquors in Great Barrington.

Leave room for the Maine course: steamed 1¼-pound lobsters, along with a mesh bag of steamed clams, corn on the cob, grilled herbed new potatoes, green beans almandine, and salads. For dessert there will be watermelon and cookies from the Harvest Barn kitchen at Gould Farm. Music will be provided by Mark Caldwell, and there will be a raffle organized by Linda, Tish, and Kirsten.

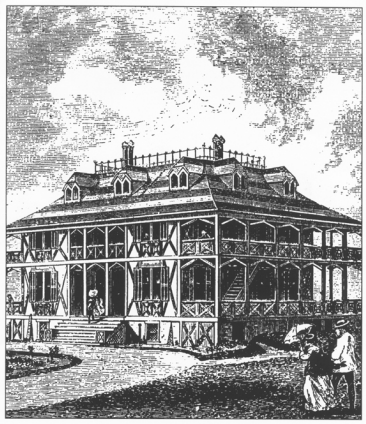
The hatchery will also hold two Fishing Derbies, on July 12 and August 9.

Buy your tickets for the Lobsterfest early by calling 413-528-9761 and plan to come with family and friends to help remember and honor our past volunteers, celebrate and savor present achievements, and flow with the current of afternoon music to forecast the future.

—George B. Emmons, President
Berkshire Hatchery Foundation

Native American Music, Stories in Otis July 5

On Saturday, July 5, from 10 a.m.–3 p.m. Loril Moon Dream White and Medicine Mammals will be presenting Native American traditional and contemporary music, storytelling, dance demonstrations, and other wildlife programs. Presentation will take place at Mountain View Campground, Route 8 South, Otis. Nature crafts and other fine Native American gifts will be available. Admission is free, sponsored by a grant from Otis Cultural Council. For information, call 413-269-8928.



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"Garden Gustation"
What's cooking from Monterey Gardens & Farms

Welcome to Summer! Thanks to Katherine Tryon for sharing the following *Gustation* this month. I look forward to hearing from others to keep this garden to kitchen information coming! We're having a great early summer strawberry season. I hope you can go out and do some picking before it's gone! —Wendy G. Jensen

Squash Time

There are four houses on Lowland Farm and three vegetable gardens. Our home is the only one without a plot; however we are usually fairly well supplied from the overflow (not to mention the generosity of our other neighbors, clients, friends…).

For a while each summer we are blessed with zucchini in an overabundance. If you are faced with this embarrassment of riches yourself, here is a recipe for a really delightful carrot cake that can deplete your summer squash stash a bit. These cakes freeze very well (unfrosted) so it's also possible to deplete your stash by more than just a bit. The recipe comes from my sister, who says she got it from *The New Zucchini Cookbook*, purchased years ago at L.L. Bean up in Freeport, Maine. We have savored this dessert during plenty of Tanglewood intermissions, rushing a little to get back to our seats and all of our senses buzzing with the music, the night, and food and family, the potency of those brief moments sweeter, even, than the cake.

Zucchini-Carrot Cake

2 eggs
1 cup sugar
⅔ cup vegetable oil
1¼ cups all-purpose flour
1 teaspoon baking powder
1 teaspoon baking soda
1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
½ teaspoon salt
1 cup grated carrots
1 cup grated and drained zucchini
½ cup chopped nuts
Frosting:
1½ ounces cream cheese, softened
1½ tablespoons butter
1 cup confectioners' sugar
½ teaspoon vanilla extract

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. In a large mixing bowl, beat eggs with sugar until frothy. Gradually beat in oil. Add dry ingredients. Beat at high speed for 4 minutes. Stir in carrots, zucchini, and nuts. Pour into a well-greased 9-inch square baking pan. Bake about 55 minutes, or until top springs back when lightly touched. Frosting: In a small mixing bowl, blend cream cheese and margarine. Add confectioners' sugar and vanilla. Beat until smooth. Spread evenly over cooled cake.

— Katherine Tryon

The Meaning of Life: A Cartoon-Based Exhibition

Plato says that the unexamined life is not worth living. But what if the examined life turns out to be a clunker as well?

—Kurt Vonnegut

The Geoffrey Young Gallery, 40 Railroad Street, Great Barrington, is thrilled to announce *The Meaning of Life*, curated by Monterey artists Sue and Phil Knoll. The exhibition opens on Saturday, July 5, with an opening reception from 5:30-7:30 p.m., and will run through Saturday, August 2. There will be a reading at the gallery by Geoffrey Young and Peter Gizzi on Thursday, July 17, at 5:30 p.m.

This exhibition explores the legacy of the search to answer the fundamental questions of life through art. The quest to understand the meaning of life has haunted humanity since the dawn of existence. Modern history alone has given us a plethora of answers from scientists, philosophers, writers, artists, spiritual leaders, and theologians.

The artists in *The Meaning of Life*, connected by a shared interest in the wildly imaginative nature of storytelling, and the visual fusion of fantasy and reality in a narrative context, provide clues to life's meaning within their artwork.

The Meaning of Life features seventeen celebrated artists exhibiting almost one hundred never-seen-before paintings, prints, and drawings from the artists' own collections, with some works created especially for this exhibition. All of the artwork has been inspired by comics and cartoons, and each artist has developed a distinct and refined artistic style and philosophy.

The artists in this exhibition are: Kaz, Don Doe, Mark Dean Veca, James Kochalka, Chie Fueki, Ken Johnson, Chris Ware, Katherine Bradford, James Siena, Daniel Heimbinder, Sandy Winters, Zohar Lazar, Faile, David Humphrey, Charles Burns, Juliette Borda, and S. Clay Wilson.

Summer hours for the gallery are Wednesday through Sunday from 11:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. and by appointment.

For exhibition information and images are available contact Sue and Phil Knoll at 413-528-6210 or 413-644-0084.

Appalachian Trail Conservancy Initiatives in the Berkshires

Western Massachusetts is home to one of our nation's National Scenic Trails, the Appalachian Trail (AT). Extending 90.2 miles from Sages Ravine north into Vermont, the trail is an invaluable resource for our communities and visitors. The entire 2,180 miles of the AT is the original example of landscape-scale conservation. A permanently protected corridor traversing the oldest mountain chain in North America is a unique resource for scientific research and conservation.

Citizen Science: AT Seasons

A new Citizen Science Initiative, "AT Seasons" was introduced in the Great Barrington area last summer. The program is led by the Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC), which has its southern New England office at the Kellogg Conservation Center on Route 41 in South Egremont.

Phenology is the observation of seasonal changes in plant and animal lifecycles. In the spring, we notice these changes every day with new buds and flowers appearing or the song of birds returning to their summer nesting grounds. Tracking this type of data pieces together important information for land managers who work to protect this unique trail and the land surrounding it. Monitoring these changes helps us understand how phenology is related to climate, and how phenological change is related to climate change.

Becoming an AT Seasons Phenology Monitor has various levels of participation ranging from a Trained Observer (assigned a nearby plot to monitor regularly), Casual Mobile App Observer (monitoring less often, with training being online), or Partner Group (school or organization that may monitor on or near the AT). Species are chosen that are common to the Appalachian ecoregion.

Lisa Bozzuto, a former Forester and current AT Seasons Phenology Monitor likes the convenience of her plot. "I walk this part of the AT every day with my dog. It only takes me about 10 minutes to record my observations. I appreciate following the trees throughout the seasons. It's a reminder of all the subtle changes taking place. It allows me to contribute in a small way and to feel like I can make a difference".

For more information visit the AT Seasons and Phenology Monitoring page at https://www.usanpn.org/appalachian/. To get involved in the AT in the Berkshires visit http://amcberkshire.org/getting-involved.

A Trail to Every Classroom

Another new program, "A Trail To Every Classroom" (TTEC), was introduced at Undermountain Elementary School in Sheffield in the spring of 2013. This professional development program, offered by ATC through the National Park Service, provides tools and training for teachers focused on place-based and service-learning education.

Sue Garcia, a fourth-grade teacher at Undermountain Elementary, uses the AT to teach her students about plants and invasive species. Since last fall, Garcia's students have gone on several naturalist hikes with regional partners, learned about thru-hiking, and about the corridor protecting the AT. This spring they helped uproot 387 pounds of invasive garlic mustard near the Kellogg Conservation Center. Five students taught a unit on invasive plants at the Environmental Youth Summit at Berkshire Community College.

"Parents who come on hikes keep thanking me for the education. It's very cool. The kids are teaching their parents," says Garcia.

"It was fun to hike with people that study the Appalachian Trail. I liked learning about the invasives and hiking," said one fourth grader.

"I like learning the Latin names because they sound like Harry Potter spells," another student added.

— Silvia Cassano, ATC

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July Appalachian Trail Free Activities

Citizen Science Along the AT

Thursday, July 10, 5:30–6:30 p.m.
Mason Library, Great Barrington
Learn more about Phenology Monitoring and begin tracking seasonal changes on the AT Presented by Silvia Cassano of the Appalachian Trail Conservancy.

AT Family Day Hike

Sunday, July 13, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.
Calling young explorers for a special kid-friendly hike geared at helping families enjoy hiking the Appalachian Trail! Our 2-mile hike (round-trip) through Ice Gulch to the Tom Leonard Shelter will take us into one of Berkshire County's most interesting trail sections near Great Barrington. Kids will be able to explore a thru-hiker shelter, eat their lunch with an awesome view, and play games that help develop good trail skills. Parents will learn great tips for successful family trail days.
For more information and to register, email: info@gbtrails.org or call Silvia at 413-528-8002. Registration is required. Group size is limited.

AT Community Celebration

Hikes & Community Picnic at Beartown State Forest
Saturday, July 26: 11 a.m., 2 p.m., & 5 p.m.
Come celebrate Monterey's and Great Barrington's connection with the Appalachian Trail. Join DCR MassParks staff and Great Barrington Trails & Greenways partners on one of two separate hikes being offered. After the hike join us for a community potluck. If there is rain or significant weather the event will be cancelled. Parking for the event will be offered at the main entrance for Beartown State Forest near the boat ramp on Benedict Pond Road in Monterey.

11 a.m.: Hikers interested in joining us for an adventurous 6.9-mile hike south along the AT from Fernside Road are asked to meet at 11 a.m. (at Benedict Pond parking lot) and will be shuttled north to the starting point. Space limited/ Registration required.

2 p.m.: A second moderate hike will be offered leaving from the parking lot where hikers will travel along the Benedict Pond Loop Trail and join the AT with a short climb to "The Ledges" for fantastic views. Registration required.

5 p.m.: Potluck Picnic: Meet fellow A.T. enthusiasts. Bring your favorite picnic food to share. We hope to connect with hungry thru-hikers! Swimming and campfire provided. Sponsored by DCR MassParks, GB Trails & Greenways, Greenagers, AMC, and ATC.

Hiking registration is required! For hike, picnic, or both, email info@gbtrails.org or CALL 413-528-0904. All hikers are then welcome to take part in our community potluck beginning at 5 p.m.

❊

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Community Center, Bidwell House Get Facilities Grants

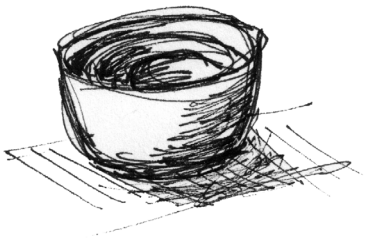
Representative Smitty Pignatelli has announced that $950,000 has been allotted to the Fourth Berkshire District in Cultural Facilities Grants. Grants totaling nearly $14 million were given out across the state to support new building projects for nonprofit arts and cultural organizations, schools, and communities across the Commonwealth. These projects will expand access and education in the arts, history, and sciences; create jobs in construction and cultural tourism; and improve the quality of life in cities and towns across the Commonwealth.

"I'm thrilled that the Fourth Berkshire District has been the recipient of so many grants during this round of funding. We have always been an important center of arts and culture for the state, and it's nice to see that recognized. These are all worthy organizations that are going to benefit immensely from these funds," said Representative Pignatelli. Some of the funded projects in Monterey and nearby towns are:

The Bidwell House Museum: The Cultural Facilities Fund awarded $30,000 for construction of a new roof that will use design, materials, and workmanship sensitive to the historic structure.

Friends of Wilson McLaughlin House: The Cultural Facilities Fund awarded $40,000 to support renovation efforts to create a Monterey Community Center to enhance cultural and artistic experiences in Monterey.

New Marlborough Meeting House: The Cultural Facilities Fund awarded the New Marlborough Village Association $60,000 to paint the exterior and interior of the Meeting House, as well as insulate and soundproof the gallery, renovate storage areas, and deepen the curtain drain to protect the facility's foundation.



Noel Wicke's tree swallows' nest; Gould Farm visitor

Wildlife in June

At the end of May, Stefan and Stephanie Grotz were visited by an American bittern, which strolled across their lawn here in Monterey, right past their swimming pool. These are typically shore or swamp birds. Then out on Cape Cod, the Grotzes have been watching fox kits "romping around like puppies" in the yard there. Stephanie comments, "Hmmm . . . shore birds in Monterey and foxes in Wellfleet . . . What a wonderful world."

On June 2, Noel Wicke reported some bluebirds in one of her bird boxes and tree swallows in another. She sent in a fine photo of the eggs in the swallows' nest.

Also in early June, Sally Pullen saw a bear cross Route 23 at her place and walk through the yard and into the woods. At first she'd thought it might be a dog. After it left the yard and got into the woods, the bear was shaking a sapling. We don't know why!

June 6 Karen and Richard Farkas saw a big bear cross Route 23 as they were driving to Great Barrington, and on the same day Kay Purcell watched a big barred owl behind her shed, where it perched on a bare tree branch about twelve feet above the ground. Kay says this is a recently cleared place, making it good hunting territory for the owl.

On the 14th of June, Carl Hartman saw a porcupine on Route 23 right above Stevens Lake Road. He managed to get a photo, even though it was dark. Also in mid-month, Doug McTavish was amazed to see a very big bird soaring, with a wingspan he felt must be about five feet across. From this and the coloration he described, we know it was probably a turkey vulture, though there are rare occurrences of golden eagles in the Berkshires, and they have just as broad a wingspan.

Rosemary McAlister says that in their new home in the bustling town of Great Barrington they are happy to see scarlet tanagers at the bird feeder and lots of bluebirds all around.

On June 24, Liz Goodman reported a visiting bear at Gould Farm. The photo is by Steve Snyder, and Liz says that more than four thousand people have looked at it on Facebook. The bear stayed all day and would not be discouraged by people banging pots and pans in an effort to scare it off. Finally an electric fence was put up and the unfortunate bear touched its sensitive nose to the wire and so has been seen no more.

Call me or write to me with your wildlife news, and many thanks.

—Bonner McAllester
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Birding at the Bidwell House

One Sunday in early June, three of us (Cindy, Rob, and Penny, our golden retriever) got an early morning start; a perfect time for bird watching at the Bidwell House Museum property. At 7:00 a.m. it was nice and sunny, cool but not chilly; a light breeze kept most of the bugs at bay, and the only sounds were those of nature. As soon as we turned into the parking lot, a large male turkey gobbled and strutted his stuff. Females in the woods clucked in response. The tree swallows swooped around the field eating insects, perching on the nesting boxes.

As we strolled past the Bidwell House, songbirds were serenading us from their roosts in the surrounding tree tops. Walking into the woods along the Royal Hemlock Trail, it was pretty quiet until we reached the clearing by the Sugar Bush Trail. The Royal Hemlock Trail runs north with clearings on both sides for about a quarter mile. This provides a wonderful habitat for birds and other wildlife as well as great opportunities for viewing the birds.

When this part of the Bidwell House Museum property was timbered a few years ago, many mature hardwood trees and some dead wildlife trees were left standing. The low brushy cover in the clearing and the high canopy of magnificent oaks, beech, maple, cherry, ash, and birch make a wonderful place for viewing birds. Many woodland birds perch high up in the tree canopy and are usually hard to see from the ground, but the selective clearing here allows a clear view of the tree tops from the trail, especially with binoculars.

Along the Royal Hemlock Trail, we saw (or heard) pileated woodpecker, downy woodpecker, mockingbird, nuthatch, and red-eyed vireo. A scarlet tanager was an especially nice sighting. His brilliant red body with black wings was spectacular in the early morning sunlight as he flitted through the tree branches singing his raspy robin-like song.

We then backtracked to the Sugar Bush Trail (on the east side of the Royal Hemlock Trail; the entrance to this trail is marked by an old stone chimney of the sugar house; the trail is marked by red trail markers). This narrow trail heads downhill along the edge of the clearing and through some of the low brushy area, perfect for small songbirds. Common yellowthroats were abundant flitting though the shrub layer; their song of "which-i-ty which-i-ty which-i-ty" filled the air. Their chorus was joined by American goldfinches with their "per-chick-a-ree" song; also nuthatches, eastern towhees, catbirds, and red-eyed vireos. We got a beautiful close-up

Rob Hoogs

look at a chestnut-sided warbler along the trail (see photo).

We finished our loop along the Sugar Bush Trail, coming out on Art School Road right across from the driveway to the museum's parking lot. We chatted with several dog walkers who were passing by. It was a beautiful way to spend a couple of hours. The trails, woods, and meadows at the Bidwell House Museum are a great place for bird watching (and dog walking).

The trails on the 190-plus acre Bidwell House Museum property are free to all, open year round during daylight hours. Trail maps are posted on kiosks at the museum parking lot and at the trailhead of the Royal Hemlock Trail, and are also available on the museum porch. Dogs are welcome on the trails and can be off-leash; please pick up after your pet.

—Rob and Cindy Hoogs

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From the Meetinghouse . . .
We Miss You, Fran

"Our hearts are at half-mast today."

I wish I'd said that, but the words were Mary Makuc's. We were gathered in the Monterey Library on June 10 with Candy Coddington, Masho McAlister, and our various needlework tools. That was also the morning—or the morning after—we'd heard that Fran Amidon had died.

Someone I don't know came through the door looking distracted. She said hello to Rosemary McAlister and burst into tears. "I just heard," she said. "And I didn't want to cry on the street." Our library's that kind of place.

Rosemary understood. She'd already caught herself looking up from her desk a number of times that morning. Over and over she saw the empty space where now Fran wasn't striding down the road to the coffee club.

I left the group at the table because one of my out-of-town friends stopped in to say goodbye. We chatted for a while; then she left for Bradley. When I got back to the group, Fran's oldest granddaughter, Shannon, was there with her sons, Ned and Philip. Maybe she wanted her boys to have something normal and peaceful happen that day. Our library's that kind of place.

Candy was casting stitches onto a knitting needle as I sat down. She looked up and said, "Ned's great-grandma was going to teach him to knit this summer. Since that won't happen now, I asked him if he wanted to learn today instead. He said yes, so Masho and I are going to show him how."

She and Ned had agreed that ten was the right number of stitches to start with. When they were all cast on, Candy knit

Mary Kate Jordan

another row because, she explained to him, the first row is the hardest. Shannon sat quietly watching, except when she was busy with safety patrol for young Philip.

Ned took the tools and the yarn in hand. His concentration was clear in his posture, in his facial expression, in the way he listened to the directions. Masho guided his hands stitch by stitch. Soon the quiet in the room was punctuated only by the two women's supportive words and the occasional "Yippee!" from Ned.

Sometimes family legacies are carried on in the most unexpected ways. I was privileged to witness Ned gain first access to a skill his great-grandmother had hoped to teach to him. But, it's that kind of library.

As we say here in town, it's the people that make the place. And you're still very much part of this place, Fran. We miss you.

—Mary Kate Jordan

Remembering Frances Robertson Amidon

On Saturday morning, June 7, 2014, Fran took her daily mile-long walk to and from the Monterey Coffee Club. She did some gardening around the house, and Saturday night she attended the reception for Len Weber and his artwork at the Monterey Library. Sunday morning Fran visited with the Coffee Club again before driving to Great Barrington to be the greeter at church, then home to do more gardening. In the early evening she went to her Lake Garfield cottage to join son and daughter-in-law Jay and Faye for the first boat ride of the summer, where she started experiencing the symptoms of the heart attack from which she died a few hours later at Fairview Hospital in Great Barrington, with Jay, Faye, granddaughter Shannon Lee, and Pastor Van at her side.

Frances Robertson Amidon, beloved wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, aunt, friend, confidante, and community pillar of Monterey, was born on December 31, 1925, in Worcester, to George and Frances Robertson. She met her future husband, Dean Amidon, in the eighth grade at a school dance. At a young age she started playing piano and violin and sang and performed with her very musical family.

On June 18, 1945, she and Dean married when he was on leave from the Navy. By 1949 they had two sons, Skippy and Peter, and relocated to Berkshire County, eventually settling in Monterey in 1952, adding two more sons, Phillip and Jay, to their family by 1955. Fran was an avid gardener and lover of

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Courtesy Amidon Family

the outdoors. She was a downhill skier and water skier for much of her life; she swam every day she could through the summer.

Fran was a generous community supporter. She started the first preschool in Monterey in her basement. She was a member of the town Republican Committee, and served as a Monterey Park Commissioner. As a certified Red Cross swimming instructor Fran taught her children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, and most of three generations of town and summer residents to swim. She was an active member of the First Congregational Church in Great Barrington and for seven years was the church secretary. In recent years she walked the mile to and from the center of town to join the Monterey Coffee Club almost every day of the year.

And all the while she was raising my three brothers and me with her indomitable sparky and firm parenting, always cheering us on, and setting a beautiful balance between freedom and boundaries for each phase of our lives. Even after we left home, Fran and Dean would host grandchildren for days and weeks at a time.

Fran continued her active life after Dean died last September after sixty-eight years of marriage: her daily walks to and from the Coffee Club; helping out with the Veteran's Memorial; organizing the greeters at church; working on her house and gardens; hosting family at home and going on adventures with Jay and Faye; creating her unique birthday and anniversary cards with her own artwork and poetry; and engaging in her prolific email and Facebook correspondence with family and friends. In the midst of all this Fran bore the deep sadness of losing a companion of so many years. In a conversation with oldest son Skippy, Fran said, "I wish we could do it all over again; there just wasn't enough time." She told my wife, Mary Alice, "Nothing can prepare you, nothing at all, for losing your husband of sixty-eight years." Fran told Mary Alice how she found some comfort, when attending a recent funeral for a friend, from the rabbi saying, "Our memories are our blessings."

After Fran died, emails came pouring in; here are just a couple:

"I knew your mother as a strong, stoic, and disciplined woman with such a deeply loving heart, powerful sense of honor and a great sense of humor. I will miss her, and the town is immeasurably less without her."

" Your folks were such an immensely inspiring part of my childhood. She was so patient with me in life, giving so much and receiving little in return from her eight-year-old neighbor—it's a lesson that I will gratefully carry with me my whole life."

Mom had a way of magnifying her family and friends' lives with her enthusiastic and compassionate listening and support. Here are excerpts from an email she sent me about a year ago, typical in her mixing her own daily news, responding in detail to the daily details of our lives, and sharing her "stay on the sunny side" philosophy:

"We had ten or so at Coffee Club this morning. A biker coming down the hill as I walked over; he was looking for a cup of coffee, so I invited him in. His in-laws summer just down from us on the lake; just past Miss Sally's. Anyway he had a fine time.

Where do you find Shakespeare's sonnets? I am not enthralled by these dour ones, thank you. I'll go with the happy ones. In this one he was in real trouble.

I find that work is good for the soul—moving, reading, being involved, caring. I have often awakened, carrying the world on my shoulders—my small world—and up and out, and walk—and oh my: life is pretty darned good. So enjoy it all—what's not to enjoy?"

—Peter Amidon

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Kit Patten

The light at the end of the tunnel—summertime in Monterey!

Lisa Gutkin Band at Knox Trail Inn July 26

The Lisa Gutkin Band presents a unique blend of acoustic music from a variety of ethnic traditions. The band is led by Grammy Award–winning singer/songwriter/fiddler Lisa Gutkin, tenor guitar and vocals, with Uri Sharlin on accordion, and Jenny Hersh on upright bass. The concert will be at Knox Trail Inn, Route 23, East Otis, on Saturday, July 26, at 7:30 p.m.

Oakes & Smith at Knox Trail Inn July 12

On Saturday, July 12, Otis Cultural Council presents Oakes & Smith in concert at Knox Trail Inn, Rte. 23, East Otis, at 7:30 p.m. The duo perform an acoustic mix of folk and pop with voices blending in close harmonies.

Call for seating reservations, 413-269-4400; buffet meal available at 6:00 p.m.

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Thanks to the following folks for your recent contributions. We are grateful for your support of our community newspaper.

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Otis Arts Festival July 26

The Otis Cultural Council presents the Seventh Annual Otis Arts Festival, on Saturday, July 26, 9 a.m.–3 p.m. FREE admission, indoors, at Farmington River Elementary School, 555 No. Main Road (Rte. 8), Otis. Over fifty artisans and craftspeople of pottery, leather, fiber, water and oil paintings, photography, quilts, jewelry, wood crafts, much more. Musical entertainment by Moonshine Holler, traditional American music, 12–2 p.m. Special guests, the Heldeberg Marionettes, will stroll with their puppets that children can learn to manipulate, 10am–2pm. For information, call 413-269-4674.

Calendar

Every Monday except holidays: Select Board meeting, Town Hall, 9 a.m., except 4 p.m. on 2nd Monday of month.

Every Sunday and Holiday: Monterey Adult Softball for co-ed players teenage and up, 10 a.m., Greene Park.

Every Saturday through August: Services at Our Lady of the Hills Roman Catholic Chapel, 7 p.m.,

Through Saturday, July 5: *Leonard Weber: 50 Years of Berkshire Impressions*, Knox Gallery, Monterey Library.

Saturday, July 5:

Township No. 1 Day, 1–4:30 p.m., Bidwell House Museum, See p. 7.

"Fun with Energy" with Jeff Boyer, 10:30 a.m., Monterey Library.

Native American traditional and contemporary music, storytelling, dance, 10 a.m.–3 p.m., Mountain View Campground, Route 8 South, Otis. See p. 18.

Mondays, July 7 through August 11: Poetry Reading and Writing Workshop with Don Barkin, 7–9 p.m., Monterey Library. Free, see p. 9.

Saturday, July 12:

Bidwell Museum History Talk by historian Wendy Warren, "Slavery in New England," 10 a.m., Tyringham Union Church, Main Road, Tyringham. $15/$10 members. See p. 12.

Outdoor Painting Workshop led by Joe Baker, 9 a.m.–4 p.m., Monterey Community Center. See p.5.

Singing/Storytelling with Davis Bates & Roger Tinckell, 10:30 a.m., Library.

Opening reception for *CLICKED! In Monterey*, Community Photography Exhibit, 6–7:30 p.m., Knox Gallery.

Otis Library Country Fair, 10 a.m.–3:30 p.m., Church Village Green, Route 8 in Otis Center. See p. 17.

Saturday, July 19:

Tag Sale to Benefit Monterey Community Center, 10 a.m.–1p.m., 69 Hupi Woods Circle, Monterey. See p. 7.

Singing with Tom Seiling, 10:30 a.m., Monterey Library.

Poetry reading by Roy Shepard, 3 p.m., Monterey Library. See p. 17.

Saturday, July 26:

Annual Book Sale, 9 a.m.–1 p.m., Monterey Library

Monterey Firemen's Annual Steak Roast, 5–7 p.m., Monterey Firehouse.

Bidwell Museum History Talk, Nicholas Marshall on "Love and Separation in Nineteenth-Century America," 10 a.m., Tyringham Union Church, Main Road, Tyringham. See p. 12.

Appalachian Trail Community Celebration, Benedict Pond. See p. 21.

Otis Arts Festival, 9 a.m.–3 p.m., Farmington River Elementary School, Rte. 8, Otis. Free; see p. 26.

Lisa Gutkin Band in concert, 7:30 p.m., Knox Trail Inn, East Otis. See p. 26.

Monday, July 28: Monterey book group will discuss *Hannah's Dream* by Diane Hammond, 7:30 p.m., Monterey Library.

Saturday, August 2:

Bidwell House Summer Art School Party, 4–7 p.m., Carrington Hall, Art School Road. See p. 11.

Microworlds with Kevin Kopchynski, a program for children of all ages, 10:30 a.m., Monterey Library.

Monterey News

The *Monterey News* is an independent nonprofit corporation dedicated to fostering communication in the Monterey community. Our editorial address is P. O. Box 9, Monterey, MA, 01245. We invite signed letters, articles, drawings, poetry, and photographs. Submissions may also be left in the drop box on the loading dock of the General Store. Address requests for advertising rates and further information to the Editor, or telephone us at 413-528-4347 or e-mail montereynews9@gmail.com.

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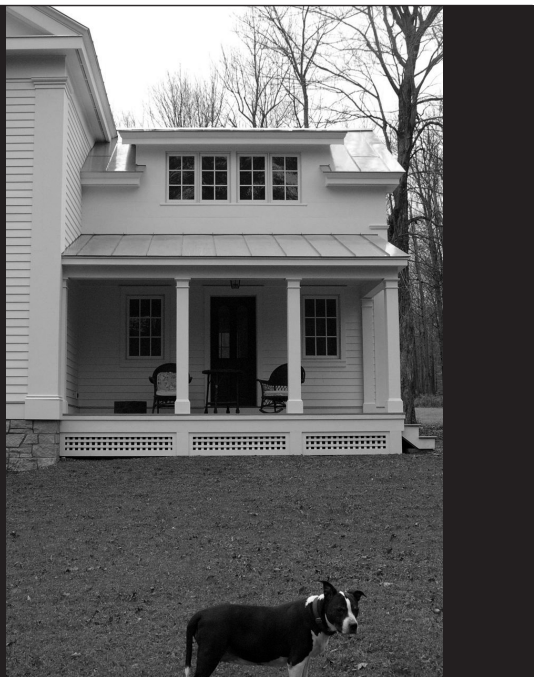

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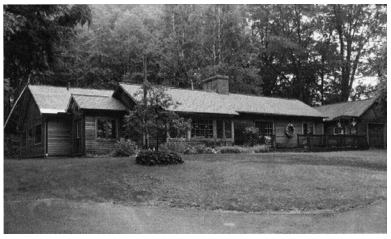

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